

Preventing disasters: Public health vulnerability reduction as a sustainable adaptation to climate change

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Abstract:

Global warming could increase the number and severity of extreme weather events. These events are often known to result in public health disasters, but we can lessen the effects of these disasters. By addressing the factors that cause changes in climate, we can mitigate the effects of climate change. By addressing the factors that make society vulnerable to the effects of climate, we can adapt to climate change. To adapt to climate change, a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction has been proposed. By reducing human vulnerability to disasters, we can lessen--and at times even prevent--their impact. Human vulnerability is a complex phenomenon that comprises social, economic, health, and cultural factors. Because public health is uniquely placed at the community level, it has the opportunity to lessen human vulnerability to climate-related disasters. At the national and international level, a supportive policy environment can enable local adaptation to disaster events. The purpose of this article is to introduce the basic concept of disaster risk reduction so that it can be applied to preventing and mitigating the negative effects of climate change and to examine the role of community-focused public health as a means for lessening human vulnerability and, as a result, the overall risk of climate-related disasters.

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Resource Description

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Water temperature

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: M

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resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Campylobacteriosis, Cholera, Cryptosporidiosis, Leptospirosis, Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, Rift Valley Fever, Other Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease (other): Encephalitis, general

Zoonotic Disease: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder, Stress Disorder

Other Health Impact: Heat stress

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: **№**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: M

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Other Vulnerable Population: Women; Genetic predisposition; Pre-existing medical conditions;

Disabled; Social Isolation; No home ownership

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

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Policy/Opinion, Review

Resilience: M

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: №

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content